

APPLICATION UNDER UNITED STATES PATENT LAWS

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Invention: PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC RECORDING HEAD AND MAGNETIC DISC APPARATUS

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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC RECORDING HEAD AND MAGNETIC
DISC APPARATUS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is based upon and claims the
benefit of priority from prior Japanese Patent
Application No. 2003-124116, filed April 28, 2003, the
entire contents of which are incorporated herein by
reference.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a perpendicular
magnetic recording head and a magnetic disc apparatus
using the perpendicular magnetic recording head.

15 2. Description of the Related Art

A conventional magnetic disc apparatus of
a perpendicular recording system has a double layered
perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising
a soft magnetic underlayer made of a high permeability
20 material and a perpendicular recording layer having
a magnetic anisotropy in the direction perpendicular
to the film plane thereof, which are formed on a disc
substrate, and a single-pole recording head including
a main pole and an auxiliary pole each made of a high
25 permeability material. The auxiliary pole serves to
efficiently conduct a magnetic flux during a recording
operation.

When the conventional magnetic disc apparatus of a perpendicular recording system is required to achieve a higher recording density, a serious problem is generated that signals recorded in the recording medium previously are deteriorated or erased by a weak magnetic field leaked from the auxiliary pole during a recording operation.

Incidentally, U.S. Patent No. 4,873,599 discloses a technique that uses an auxiliary pole whose permeability progressively increases from each edge to the center thereof in the moving direction of the head, in order to overcome the increase in pulse noise generation in the edge of the auxiliary pole. In this technique, however, it is impossible to basically overcome the above-noted problem of the deterioration and erasure of the signals already recorded in the recording medium.

Also, since the conventional single-pole recording head has high sensitivity to a disturbance magnetic field, it is possible that the disturbance magnetic field brings about deterioration and erasure of previously recorded information. Thus, a structure that a write shield is arranged on the trailing side to the single-pole recording head is proposed to suppress penetration of the disturbance magnetic field (see U.S. Patent No. 5,311,387). The particular structure makes it possible to prevent the signal

deterioration in a region right under the main pole. However, the structure gives rise to a problem that a magnetic field generated from the main pole during a recording operation is introduced into the write shield to cause a weak leakage field from the write shield, which deteriorates or erases the previously recorded signals.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A perpendicular magnetic recording head according to an aspect of the present invention comprises: a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction; and an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

A perpendicular magnetic recording head according to another aspect of the present invention comprises: a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction; an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole; and a write shield arranged apart from the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

A magnetic disc apparatus according to another

aspect of the present invention comprises: a double layered perpendicular recording medium comprising a soft magnetic underlayer and a perpendicular recording layer, which are formed on a substrate; and
5 a perpendicular magnetic recording head comprising a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction, and an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having
10 a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

A magnetic disc apparatus according to another aspect of the present invention comprises: a double layered perpendicular recording medium comprising
15 a soft magnetic underlayer and a perpendicular recording layer, which are formed on a substrate; and a perpendicular magnetic recording head comprising a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction,
20 an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole, and a write shield arranged apart from the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between
25 magnetic layers.

In the present invention, the write shield may have such a thickness that is thicker in each of edge

portions than in a central portion or may have such a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer that is larger in each of edge portions than in a central portion.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing the magnetic head and the magnetic disc used in the perpendicular magnetic disc apparatus according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention;

10 FIG. 2 is a plan view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 1 as viewed from the air-bearing surface (ABS);

FIG. 3 is a vertical sectional view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 1, which is sectioned perpendicularly to the magnetic disk in the track direction at the center position of the main pole;

15 FIG. 4 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction where the magnetic head of Embodiment 1 or Comparative Example thereof is used;

20 FIG. 5 is a plan view showing a magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 1 as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing the magnetic head and the magnetic disc used in the perpendicular magnetic disc apparatus according to Embodiment 2 of the present invention;

25 FIG. 7 is a plan view showing the magnetic head

in FIG. 6 as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 8 is a vertical sectional view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 6, which is sectioned perpendicularly to the magnetic disc in the track direction at the center position of the main pole;

FIG. 9 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction where the magnetic head of Embodiment 2 or Comparative Example thereof is used;

FIG. 10 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 2 as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 11 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 3 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 12 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction where the magnetic head of Embodiment 3 or Comparative Example thereof is used;

FIG. 13 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 3 as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 14 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for the magnetic head in FIG. 13 as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 15 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 4 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 16 is a graph showing output profiles in

the track width direction where the magnetic head of Embodiment 4 or Comparative Example thereof is used;

FIG. 17 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 4 as viewed
5 from the ABS;

FIG. 18 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 5 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS;

FIG. 19 is a graph showing output profiles in
10 the track width direction where the magnetic head of Embodiment 5 or Comparative Example thereof is used; and

FIG. 20 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 5 as viewed
15 from the ABS.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present inventor has conducted research to clarify why a leakage field is generated from the auxiliary pole or the write shield during a recording
20 operation. It has been found that large magnetic domains are probably formed in the edge portions in the track width direction of the auxiliary pole or the write shield, where the magnetic field is concentrated, bringing about a leakage field. It was
25 therefore expected that it would be effective to reduce the magnetic domains in order to suppress the leakage field from the auxiliary pole or the write

shield.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the auxiliary pole is connected to the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole and has a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers. The particular auxiliary pole makes it possible to reduce the magnetic domains in both edge portions thereof in the track width direction so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, with the result that it is possible to prevent the previously recorded signals from being deteriorated and erased.

It suffices for the auxiliary pole to be of a three-layer structure in which a magnetic layer, a nonmagnetic layer and another magnetic layer are stacked. However, it is also possible to increase the number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer so as to further reduce the magnetic domains formed in the edge portions of the auxiliary pole in the track width direction.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a write shield is arranged apart from the main pole on the trailing side to the main pole, and the write shield is formed into a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers. The particular write shield makes it possible to reduce the magnetic domains in both edge

portions thereof in the track width direction so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, with the result that it is possible to prevent the previously recorded signals from being
5 deteriorated and erased.

It suffices for the write shield to be of a three-layer structure in which a magnetic layer, a nonmagnetic layer and another magnetic layer are stacked. However, it is also possible to increase the
10 number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer so as to further reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions of the write shield in the track width direction.

In the present invention, the material of the
15 magnetic layer used for the auxiliary pole or the write shield includes soft magnetic materials such as a Co-based magnetic alloy, Permalloy and Sendust. In the present invention, the material of the nonmagnetic layer used for the auxiliary pole or the
20 write shield includes titanium (Ti), ruthenium (Ru), tantalum (Ta), gold (Au), platinum (Pt), copper (Cu) and carbon (C), which are highly wettable with the aforementioned soft magnetic material. It is also possible to use SiO₂ or alumina (Al₂O₃) as the
25 material of the nonmagnetic layer.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

(Embodiment 1)

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing the magnetic head and the magnetic disc used in the perpendicular magnetic recording apparatus according to Embodiment 1.
5 of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a plan view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 1 as viewed from the air-bearing surface (ABS). FIG. 3 is a vertical sectional view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 1, which is sectioned perpendicularly to the magnetic
10 disc in the track direction at the center position of the main pole.

The magnetic disc 10 includes the disc substrate 11 and the soft magnetic underlayer 12 and the perpendicular recording layer 13 having an anisotropy
15 in a direction perpendicular to the disc plane, which are formed on the substrate 11.

The magnetic head 20, which is a separate type magnetic head, includes the read head 30 and the write head 40 which are formed separately on a head
20 substrate (not shown). The read head 30 includes the lower shield 31, the read element 32, e.g., a giant magnetoresistive element (GMR element), and the upper shield 33. The GMR element 32 is arranged within the read gap formed between the lower shield 31 and the
25 upper shield 33. The write head 40 includes the main pole 41 and the auxiliary pole 42 arranged on the trailing side to the main pole 41, which are connected

by the connecting section 43. The coil 44 is wound around the connecting section 43. The main pole 41 generates a recording magnetic field in a direction perpendicular to the magnetic disc. The auxiliary pole 42 has a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 42f, a nonmagnetic layer 42n and another magnetic layer 42f are stacked. The tip section 421 of the auxiliary pole 42 is formed to project toward the main pole 41 so as to approach the main pole 41.

As shown in FIG. 3, the shortest distance between the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic disc 10 and the main pole 41 or the auxiliary pole 42 is expressed by K. In order to optimize the recording efficiency, the shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the tip section 421 of the auxiliary pole 42 should be designed to be about 1 to 5 times as much as K.

In the present Embodiment, since the auxiliary pole 42 formed on the trailing side to the main pole 41 is formed into a multilayered structure in which the nonmagnetic layer 42n is sandwiched between the two magnetic layers 42f and 42f, it is possible to reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions in the track width direction of the auxiliary pole 42 so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, making it possible to prevent the

previously recorded signals from being deteriorated and erased.

Now, results of experiments, conducted for confirming the aforementioned effect, will be described. A magnetic head for Embodiment 1 shown in FIGS. 1 to 3 was fabricated as follows. The shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the auxiliary pole 42 of the magnetic head was designed to be 0.2 μm . The auxiliary pole 42 had a thickness of 2 μm , a height of 15 μm and a width of 40 μm . As a Comparative Example, a magnetic head having a structure similar to that shown in FIGS. 1 to 3, except that the auxiliary pole was formed of a single magnetic layer, was fabricated.

Perpendicular magnetic recording was performed with each of the magnetic heads. The flying height of the magnetic head was controlled to provide 0.1 μm of the distance between the main pole 41 and the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic disc 10. In the first step, signals were recorded over the entire surface of the magnetic disc 10 with a single frequency of 40 MHz. Then, signals were repeatedly recorded 1,000 times in a target track with a frequency of 150 MHz. Further, the signals recorded first were reproduced from the tracks positioned within a range of ± 50 nm in the radial direction from the target track. FIG. 4 is a graph showing profiles

of the detected output [mV] in the track width direction (radial direction).

As shown in FIG. 4, in the case of using the magnetic head for the Comparative Example,
5 a deterioration of about 14% in the output was observed in the tracks corresponding to the edge portions of the auxiliary pole in the track width direction while the recording was performed on the target track. On the other hand, in the case of using
10 the magnetic head for Embodiment 1, the deterioration in the output was low, i.e., about 1.1%.

FIG. 5 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification for Embodiment 1 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the auxiliary
15 pole 42 arranged on the trailing side to the main pole 41 is formed into a stacked structure in which six magnetic layers 42f and five nonmagnetic layers 42n are alternately stacked. Where the number of magnetic layers 42f and nonmagnetic layers 42n forming the
20 auxiliary pole 42 are increased as in the modification compared with Embodiment 1, it is possible to suppress more effectively the leakage field from the both edge portions of the auxiliary pole 42.

(Embodiment 2)

25 FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing the magnetic head and the magnetic disc used in the perpendicular magnetic recording apparatus according to Embodiment 2

of the present invention. FIG. 7 is a plan view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 6 as viewed from the ABS. FIG. 8 is a vertical sectional view showing the magnetic head in FIG. 6, which is sectioned
5 perpendicularly to the magnetic disc in the track direction at the center position of the main pole.

The magnetic disc 10 includes the disc substrate 11 and the soft magnetic underlayer 12 and the perpendicular recording layer 13 having
10 an anisotropy in a direction perpendicular to the disc plane, which are formed on the substrate 11.

The magnetic head 20, which is a separation type magnetic head, includes the read head 30 and the write head 40 which are formed separately on a head
15 substrate (not shown). The read head 30 includes the lower shield 31, the read element 32, e.g., a giant magnetoresistive element (GMR element), and the upper shield 33. The GMR element 32 is arranged within the read gap formed between the lower shield 31 and the
20 upper shield 33. The write head 40 includes the main pole 41 and the auxiliary pole 42 arranged on the leading side to the main pole 41, which are connected by the connecting section 43. The auxiliary pole 42 is formed into a multilayered structure in which
25 a magnetic layer 42f, a nonmagnetic layer 42n, and another magnetic layer 42f are stacked. The coil 44 is wound around the connecting section 43. Further,

the write shield 45 is arranged apart from the main pole 41 on the trailing side to the main pole 41 with an insulating film (not shown) interposed therebetween. The write shield 45 serves to suppress penetration of a disturbance magnetic field into the write head. The write shield 45 has a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 45f, a nonmagnetic layer 45n and another magnetic layer 45f are stacked. The write shield 45 may be recessed from the ABS of the head.

As shown in FIG. 8, the shortest distance between the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic disc 10 and the main pole 41 or the write shield 45 is expressed by K . In order to optimize the resistance to the disturbance magnetic field, the shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the write shield 45 should be designed to be about 1 to 50 times as much as K .

In the present Embodiment, since the write shield 45 formed on the trailing side to the main pole 41 is formed into a multilayered structure in which the nonmagnetic layer 45n is sandwiched between the two magnetic layers 45f and 45f, it is possible to reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions in the track width direction of the write shield 45 so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, making it possible to prevent the

previously recorded signals from being deteriorated and erased.

5 A magnetic head for Embodiment 2 shown in FIGS. 6 to 8 was fabricated as follows. The shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the write shield 45 was designed to be 2 μm . The write shield 45 had a thickness of 2 μm , a height of 8 μm , and a width of 70 μm . As a Comparative Example, a magnetic head having a structure similar to that shown in FIGS. 6
10 to 8, except that the write shield was formed of a single magnetic layer, was fabricated.

Perpendicular magnetic recording was performed with each of the magnetic heads. The flying height of the magnetic head was controlled to provide 0.1 μm of
15 the distance between the main pole 41 and the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic disc 10. In the first step, signals were recorded over the entire surface of the magnetic disc 10 with a single frequency of 40 MHz. Then, signals were
20 repeatedly recorded 1,000 times in a target track with a frequency of 150 MHz. Further, the signals recorded first were reproduced from the tracks positioned within a range of ± 50 nm in the radial direction from the target track. FIG. 9 is a graph showing output
25 profiles in the track width direction.

As shown in FIG. 9, in the case of using the magnetic head for the Comparative Example,

a deterioration of about 13% in the output was observed in the tracks corresponding to the edge portions of the write shield in the track width direction while the recording was performed on the target track. On the other hand, in the case of using the magnetic head for Embodiment 2, the deterioration in the output was low, i.e., about 0.9%.

FIG. 10 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification of Embodiment 2 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the write shield 46 arranged on the trailing side to the main pole 41 is formed into a stacked structure in which four magnetic layers 46f and three nonmagnetic layers 46n are alternately stacked. Where the number of magnetic layers 46f and nonmagnetic layers 46n forming the write shield 46 are increased as in the modification, it is possible to suppress more effectively the leakage field from the both edge portions of the write shield 46, compared with Embodiment 2.

(Embodiment 3)

FIG. 11 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 3 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS. The magnetic head shown in FIG. 11 is similar in structure to the magnetic head for Embodiment 2, which was described with reference to FIG. 7, except the shape of the write shield. The differences in structure between the magnetic head

shown in FIG. 11 and that shown in FIG. 7 will be mainly explained in the following description.

5 The write shield 51 is arranged apart from the main pole 41 of the write head 40 on the trailing side to the main pole 41 with an insulating film (not shown) interposed therebetween. The write shield 51 has a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 51f, a nonmagnetic layer 51n and another magnetic layer 51f are stacked. In the present Embodiment, 10 the same effect as in Embodiment 2 is also provided. That is, since the write shield 51 is formed into a multilayered structure, it is possible to reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions in the track width direction of the write shield 51 so as to 15 suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, making it possible to prevent the previously recorded signals from being deteriorated and erased.

20 Further, the write shield 51 in the present Embodiment is formed such that the both edge portions in the track width direction are inclined toward the leading side, compared with the central portion. The write shield 51 having the particular shape has a function of suppressing penetration of a disturbance 25 magnetic field not only from the track direction but also from the track width direction. The write shield 51 may be recessed from the ABS of the head.

Results of experiments, conducted for confirming the aforementioned effect, will be described.

A magnetic head for Embodiment 3 shown in FIG. 11 was fabricated as follows. The shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the write shield 51 was designed to be 1.5 μm . The write shield 51 had a thickness of 2 μm , a height of 15 μm and a width of 90 μm . As a Comparative Example, a magnetic head having a structure similar to that shown in FIG. 11, except that the write shield was formed of a single magnetic layer, was fabricated.

Perpendicular magnetic recording was performed with each of the magnetic heads. The flying height of the magnetic head was controlled to provide 0.1 μm of the distance between the main pole 41 and the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic disc 10. In the first step, signals were recorded over the entire surface of the magnetic disc 10 with a single frequency of 40 MHz. Then, signals were repeatedly recorded 1,000 times in a target track with a frequency of 150 MHz. Further, the signals recorded first were reproduced from the tracks positioned within a range of ± 50 nm in the radial direction from the target track. FIG. 12 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction.

As shown in FIG. 12, in the case of using the magnetic head for the Comparative Example,

a deterioration of about 25% in the output was observed in the tracks corresponding to the edge portions of the write shield 51, which are the inclined portions extending to the tip ends, while the recording was performed on the target track. On the other hand, in the case of using the magnetic head for Embodiment 3, the deterioration in the output was low, i.e., about 0.8%.

FIG. 13 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification of Embodiment 3 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the write shield 52 has a stacked structure in which a magnetic layer 52f, a nonmagnetic layer 52n and another magnetic layer 52f are alternately stacked. The magnetic head shown in FIG. 13 differs from that shown in FIG. 11 in that the magnetic layer 52f on the trailing side is made thicker in each of the edge portions from the inclined portions to the tip ends of the write shield 52.

FIG. 14 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification of FIG. 13 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the write shield 53 has a similar shape as a whole to the write shield 52 in FIG. 13, whereas the number of magnetic layers 53f and nonmagnetic layers 53n is larger than that in FIG. 13. Further, in the write shield 53, the number of magnetic layers 53f and nonmagnetic layers 53n

included in each of the both edge portions are larger than that in the central portion.

(Embodiment 4)

FIG. 15 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 4 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS. The magnetic head shown in FIG. 15 is similar in structure to the magnetic head for Embodiment 2, which was described with reference to FIG. 7, except the shape of the write shield. The differences in structure between the magnetic head shown in FIG. 15 and that shown in FIG. 7 will be mainly explained in the following description.

The write shield 61 is arranged apart from the main pole 41 of the write head 40 on the trailing side to the main pole 41 with an insulating film (not shown) interposed therebetween. The write shield 61 has a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 61f, a nonmagnetic layer 61n and another magnetic layer 61f are stacked. Also in the present Embodiment, the same effect as in Embodiment 2 may be provided. That is, since the write shield 61 is formed into a multilayered structure, it is possible to reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions in the track width direction of the write shield 61 so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, making it possible to prevent the previously recorded signals from being deteriorated

and erased.

It should also be noted that the write shield 61 in the present Embodiment is constructed such that the magnetic layer 61f alone on the trailing side is made thicker in each of the both edge portions in the track width direction than in the central portion. In the case of arranging the write shield 61 of the particular structure, the magnetic flux density is lowered in each of the both edge portions and the leakage field is made smaller than that in the case of FIG. 7. The write shield 61 may be recessed from the ABS of the head.

A magnetic head for Embodiment 4 shown in FIG. 15 was fabricated as follows. The shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the write shield 61 was designed to be 2 μm . The write shield 61 had a thickness of 1.5 μm in the thin portion and 3 μm in the thick portion, a height of 8 μm , and a width of 80 μm . As a Comparative Example, a magnetic head having a structure similar to that shown in FIG. 15, except that the write shield was formed of a single magnetic layer, was fabricated.

Perpendicular magnetic recording was performed with each of the magnetic heads. The flying height of the magnetic head was controlled to provide 0.1 μm of the distance between the main pole 41 and the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic

disc 10. In the first step, signals were recorded over the entire surface of the magnetic disc 10 with a single frequency of 40 MHz. Then, signals were repeatedly recorded 1,000 times in a target track with a frequency of 150 MHz. Further, the signals recorded first were reproduced from the tracks positioned within a range of ± 50 nm in the radial direction from the target track. FIG. 16 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction.

As shown in FIG. 16, in the case of using the magnetic head for the Comparative Example, a deterioration of about 12% in the output was observed in the tracks corresponding to the edge portions of the write shield in the track width direction while the recording was performed on the target track. On the other hand, in the case of using the magnetic head for Embodiment 4, the deterioration in the output was low, i.e., about 0.3%.

FIG. 17 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification of Embodiment 4 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the write shield 62 has a similar shape as a whole to that in FIG. 15, whereas the number of magnetic layers 62f and nonmagnetic layers 62n is larger than that in FIG. 15. Further, in the write shield 62, the number of magnetic layers 62f and nonmagnetic layers 62n included in each of the both edge portions are larger

than that in the central portion.

(Embodiment 5)

FIG. 18 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to Embodiment 5 of the present invention as viewed from the ABS. The magnetic head shown in FIG. 18 is similar in structure to the magnetic head for Embodiment 2, which was described with reference to FIG. 7, except the shape of the write shield. The differences in structure between the magnetic head shown in FIG. 18 and that shown in FIG. 7 will be mainly explained in the following description.

The write shield 71 is arranged apart from the main pole 41 of the write head 40 on the trailing side to the main pole 41 with an insulating film (not shown) interposed therebetween. The write shield 71 has a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 71f, a nonmagnetic layer 71n and another magnetic layer 71f are stacked. Also in the present Embodiment, the same effect as in Embodiment 2 may be provided. That is, since the write shield 71 is formed into a multilayered structure, it is possible to reduce the magnetic domains in the edge portions in the track width direction of the write shield 71 so as to suppress the leakage field during the recording operation, making it possible to prevent the previously recorded signals from being deteriorated and erased.

Further, in the write shield 71 for the present Embodiment, the magnetic layer 71f and the nonmagnetic layer 71n are tapered in the both edge portions in the track width direction such that these portions are made thinner toward the tip ends. In the case of arranging the write shield 71 of the particular structure, it is possible to suppress the concentration of the magnetic fluxes on the edge portions so as to suppress the leakage field, though it is impossible to completely eliminate the leakage field in the edge portions. The write shield 71 may be recessed from the ABS of the head.

A magnetic head for Embodiment 5 shown in FIG. 18 was fabricated as follows. The shortest distance between the main pole 41 and the write shield 71 was designed to be $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$. The write shield 71 had a thickness of $1.5\ \mu\text{m}$ in the thin portion and $3\ \mu\text{m}$ in the thick portion, a height of $8\ \mu\text{m}$, and a width of $90\ \mu\text{m}$. As a Comparative Example, a magnetic head having a structure similar to that shown in FIG. 18, except that the write shield was formed of a single magnetic layer, was fabricated.

Perpendicular magnetic recording was performed with each of the magnetic heads. The flying height of the magnetic head was controlled to provide $0.1\ \mu\text{m}$ of the distance between the main pole 41 and the surface of the soft magnetic underlayer 12 of the magnetic

disc 10. In the first step, signals were recorded over the entire surface of the magnetic disc 10 with a single frequency of 40 MHz. Then, signals were repeatedly recorded 1,000 times in a target track with a frequency of 150 MHz. Further, the signals recorded first were reproduced from the tracks positioned within a range of ± 50 nm in the radial direction from the target track. FIG. 19 is a graph showing output profiles in the track width direction.

As shown in FIG. 19, in the case of using the magnetic head for the Comparative Example, a deterioration of about 11% in the output was observed in the tracks corresponding to the edge portions of the write shield in the track width direction while the recording was performed on the target track. On the other hand, in the case of using the magnetic head for Embodiment 5, the deterioration in the output was low, i.e., about 0.3%.

FIG. 20 is a plan view showing the magnetic head according to a modification of Embodiment 5 as viewed from the ABS. In this modification, the both edge portions in the track width direction of the write shield 72, having a multilayered structure in which a magnetic layer 72f, a nonmagnetic layer 72n and another magnetic layer 72f are stacked, are inclined on the trailing side. In this case, the total thickness of the magnetic layers 72f, the nonmagnetic

layer 72n and the magnetic layer 72f is substantially uniform over the entire region in the write shield 72.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, 5 the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as 10 defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.